GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:695
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2016
Siksha Abhiyan Programmes
Chauhan Shri Devusinh Jesingbhai;Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram;Kundariya Shri Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai;Patil Shri Chandrakant Raghunath

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) programmes of the Government;
(b) whether the Government proposes to make any changes in the guidelines of the said programmes to accommodate specific requirements of the States and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government is aware of the shortcomings of the scheme of opening a school at every 5 kms. in some States such as Gujarat, Rajasthan which are sparsely populated and do not have enough students to admit resulting into draining of financial resources and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government proposes to provide free books and uniform free of cost to all the students throughout the schooling period and salary to teachers appointed under the said schemes and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government under the said programmes like sanctioning requisite class rooms, removing restrictions to accommodate the number of students in schools, etc.?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a): The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in partnership with State Governments for universalizing elementary education across the country. Its overall goals include universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning levels of children.
Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) was launched in March 2009 with the objective of making secondary education of good quality, available, accessible and affordable to all students in the age group of 14-18 years. The scheme envisages enhancing enrolment in Classes IX-X by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation to achieve greater than 90% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in secondary education.
The RMSA and SSA programmes provide a variety of interventions, including enhancing access to primary, upper primary & secondary schools, strengthening school infrastructure like school building, additional classrooms, laboratories, libraries, arts & craft rooms, toilets, drinking water facilities etc., improving the teachers pupil ratio as well as strategies for gender positive textbooks, gender sensitization of teachers and educational administrators, in service training of teachers, ICT enabled education. In addition, 3600 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas or residential schools for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minorities at upper primary level in educationally backward blocks of the country have been set up.
(b): No, Madam.
(c): As per Section 6 of the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009, "the appropriate Government and the local authority shall establish, within such area or limits of neighbourhood, as may be prescribed, a school, where it is not established, within a period of three years from the commencement of this Act". Accordingly, State Governments have notified their Rules for establishment of neighbourhood school as per their requirement. Based on Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of established neighbourhood school and their respective enrolments, the State Governments are merging some of the unviable schools through notification without violating the RTE Act norms.
The RMSA scheme framework aims to provide access to every habitation to a secondary school within a distance of 5kms. However, there is no mandatory requirement on the states to have secondary schools within that distance. The States can propose secondary schools based on the actual enrolment and topography. The proposals are approved based on actual enrolment in catchment area & gap in access.
(d): SSA norms provides for two sets of uniforms for all girls, and children belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Below Poverty Line (SC/ST/BPL) families in Government schools within a ceiling of Rs. 400/- per child per annum. SSA norms also provide support for textbooks to all children in Government/Local Body and Government aided schools, including

Madarsas desirous of introducing the State curriculum, within an upper ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child at primary level and Rs. 250/- per child at upper primary level. In case, states that have been providing textbooks to children under State sector schemes and budgets since 2007-08 will continue to fund textbooks being provided from the State Plans. Financial assistance is provided to State and UTs for teacher salary appointed against the teacher posts sanctioned under SSA as per the existing fund sharing pattern of the scheme.

Under RMSA Scheme, no funds are provided for free textbooks and uniform. However, financial assistance is provided as per sharing funding pattern for salary of teachers, approved under the scheme.

(e): The said schemes provide for sanctioning of additional classrooms, as per the requirement submitted by the State and UTs based on the enrolment of children. The student classrooms ratio prescribed at primary, upper primary & secondary level are 30:1, 35:1 & 40:1 respectively. There is no restriction for enrolment of children in Government and Government-aided schools.

*****